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LESBIANS IN COLORADO

DECEMBER 1992 ▼ VOLUME 2 ▼ NUMBER 3



FOR
A
MOMENT,
PEACE.

From the Editor

We have a hero in these troubled times. On December 4 a Denver district judge overruled a decision by the Denver Career Service Board, which had denied three days of sick leave to Mary Ross for taking care of her injured partner during 1990-91. The judge ruled the board's definition of "immediate family" was "irrational" because it excluded same-sex partners, in violation of the board's own non-discrimination rule. As we pull up our socks to reverse Amendment 2, we can look to Mary Ross as a model of courage and resolution. This shy, quiet, fiercely determined woman took on a rule of government that she believed was unfair. She has persevered for two years, sustained for much of that time only by her own principles. The city of Denver may appeal this ruling; I have no doubt she will abide until the end.

Her case also is a harbinger of life under Amendment 2. Because the amendment rescinds city non-discrimination rules for lesbians and gays, people like Ross will have no recourse. Without Amendment 2, her victory could have been a precursor to same-sex benefits for city of Denver employees. Rather than building on the presumption of our rights as full citizens, we now face the challenge of re-establishing that claim. But if you feel discouraged, read an older lesbian's oral history in this issue, "Now the Feminine Ladies Can Hammer Up a Wall." You'll see that we've progressed from an invisible underclass to a maturing civil rights movement.

LIC supports the boycott of Colorado as a means to exert pressure and generate publicity to overturn Amendment 2. We can't afford business as usual. A boycott is a powerful, non-violent instrument to create social change. Arizona lost millions of dollars because its failure to approve a Martin Luther King holiday became a symbol of discrimination. In Colorado we're not dealing with a symbol; we've actually institutionalized discrimination. Nationally, even internationally, governments and organizations are shunning Colorado economically as the South Africa of the United States, "The Hate State." We've earned the title. The religious right-wing has just begun; voters in Oregon and California will face ballot initiatives similar to Colorado's "mildly" worded Amendment 2. A boycott alerts not only Colorado, but also voters in other states, to the civil rights violations inherent in these initiatives. On the flip-side of the boycott is the opportunity for us to support businesses that believe in civil rights for all citizens. Boulder quickly and effectively has begun to identify businesses as "Hate Free Zones." Rainbow Businesses is involved in a similar effort. Be selective where you spend your money; the lesbian dollar has power.

A statewide meeting will be held on January 10th in Colorado Springs to discuss models for a human rights coalition. A new Colorado lesbian/gay political structure is likely to emerge. Call 303-331-2854 for specifics about the time and place.



Lessons From Oregon

SHERRY DESER

Past Chair of Oregon's No On 9 Campaign

Shock. Disbelief. Outrage. We in Oregon know those emotions well. On November 9, 1988 the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA), a relatively new and unknown right-wing organization, persuaded Oregon voters to believe their lies about "special rights" and to pass ballot measure 8. Measure 8, a badly worded, confusing law, revoked then-Governor Neil Goldschmidt's executive order prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in state employment and state services. It passed narrowly, 53% to 47%. We understand what you in Colorado are going through. And we empathize.

On November 3, 1992, however, Oregonians celebrated a major victory. This time we defeated the OCA's attempts to brand gays and lesbians "abnormal" and "perverse." We stopped their efforts to force schools to "set a standard for youth" to discourage homosexuality. Oregon voters defeated ballot measure 9, 57% to 43%.

What happened in those four years? How did we win? What did we do differently? We've been asked those questions repeatedly in the past few weeks. Here's one person's analysis.

No one took the OCA seriously in 1988. No one—not the gay and lesbian community, not the straight community, not the press—took the OCA seriously. They were seen as nothing more than a fringe religious-right group, not in the mainstream of religion or politics. As a result, the campaign against measure 8 didn't start until the OCA had sufficient signatures to put the measure on the ballot—only five months before the November election.

Oregonians for Fairness, the campaign committee formed to combat measure 8, was criticized for wanting only "big" money and for running only a

media campaign. But having organized so late, raising money fast and buying air time became a top priority. Organizing a grassroots campaign requires more time.

We started organizing early.

Initial meetings of civil rights groups started as soon as the OCA first filed their potential initiative in June 1991, and continued over the course of several months. A campaign committee, the Campaign for a Hate-Free Oregon, formed in November 1991, a year before the election. The campaign hired a manager in February 1992, and the Right to Privacy PAC, Oregon's major gay and lesbian political action committee, provided early funding for a benchmark poll.

We vowed to run a political campaign—meaning both a grassroots and a media campaign.

Some people believed that you run either a grassroots campaign or a media campaign. That's not true; a political campaign is both. Our original budget projection was \$1 million. Most of that, 60%, was targeted for media buys. The remainder was targeted for fundraising and field organizing. What we didn't know last spring and summer was the overwhelming response we would get from Oregonians. At the end of the campaign, we'd raised \$2 million, twice what we'd expected. While we raised the vast majority of funds in Oregon, people from throughout the country gave generously of both their money and their time.

We held many fundraising events. In July, a walk-a-thon raised \$50,000. In early September, an auction generated over \$110,000; the rock band Nirvana contributed \$25,000 from a concert. A breakfast for the business community brought in substantial financial support. Direct mail fundraising and house parties were held throughout the campaign. So great was the commitment, that many times, the campaign learned of benefits by reading gay and lesbian newspapers.

In the end, we spent just over \$900,000 on TV and radio buys. We increased our field staff substantially and concentrated our resources in

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LESBIANS IN COLORADO

P.O. Box 533 ▼ Contract Station 2
Denver, Colorado 80206
303-399-3544

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BE INCLUSIVE!

If you belong to an organization fighting Amendment 2, these groups belong at your meetings and in your power structure.

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People of Color:	303-852-7010
Black Lesbians & Gays:	303-220-1093
ADAPT:	303-733-9324
Cross Disability Coalition:	303-839-1775

Note: If your group is not listed, call 303-399-3544 or write LIC, P.O. Box 533, Contract Station 2, Denver, CO 80206.

Working Numbers

Post-Amendment 2 Coordinating Number:
303-331-2854. For current information on many groups organizing to fight #2

Boycott Colorado

P.O. Box 300158, Denver, CO 80203-0158

Colorado Legal Initiatives Project (CLIP)

P.O. Box 44447, Denver, CO 80201 303-830-2100

Aspen Gay & Lesbian Community Center

303-925-9249

Colorado Springs Helpline

719-471-4GAY

Letters

Letters may be
edited for length

Send letters to LIC at
P.O. Box 533, Contract Station 2
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Please include your
phone number

To the editor:

Since November 3rd I've been involved in organizing and providing counselling to members of our community who are feeling emotional distress due to the passage of Amendment 2. I hope no one will be confused about why those services are needed. *None of us who are lesbian, gay or bisexual are emotionally disturbed or ill because of our sexual orientation.* Many of us are in emotional pain because we are targets for discrimination and hatred. The only long-term solution is the creation of a society that values diversity and welcomes us as human beings. It is important to work toward that goal. It is also important to care for ourselves now: If we do not treat ourselves as worthwhile and valuable, the bigots will have won.

Gail Bernstein, Ph.D., Denver

To the editor:

I am writing in response to the [Denver] Mayor's Gay/Lesbian Advisory Board meeting held 11/9/92 focusing on Amendment 2. During the meeting, I heard people of color express their outrage at the hypocrisy of trying to suddenly include "minority" groups in a grassroots effort to fight Amendment 2. The question was raised again and again: Where was the gay community when people of color fought their battles alone? And are they being called upon now that discrimination has become a white man's issue? Many people wanted to push aside this confrontation with their own racism.

I believe that if we are truly committed to joining forces with *all* people, especially those within our community, we must be willing to acknowledge their experience without reacting defensively. We need to examine our own racism, internalized homophobia and sexism without turning on our gay/lesbian brothers and sisters. For those of us in the "non-minority" group, I hope that experiencing discrimination through the passage of Amendment 2 will help broaden our perspective and help us empathize with those who have lived with it all their lives.

Monica Schultz, Denver

To the editor:

I am not the enemy. I work hard, pay taxes, believe in God and the Golden Rule. I am your co-worker, your sister, your daughter, your neighbor. I am your doctor, your lawyer, your teacher and your cashier in the grocery store. It is true. I am everywhere. I am not to be feared; I only wish to be left in peace. I don't want "special" rights; I only want the same rights you already have: The right not to lose my job for no reason other than my sexual orientation. The right to obtain housing and not be denied a place to live because of who I am. The right to live in a tolerant society, because we are all different. That is our beauty as human beings, while our basic needs remain the same. And though you may hate me, and you even may try to outlaw me, I will not go away. I have the right to stay here. It is not OK for people to legislate hate and ignorance. I will no longer remain silent. You see, I am faced with the threat of extinction at the hands of careless hunters. I am a lesbian.

Jeri Burnham, Greeley

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To the editor:

High praises to all of EPOC, especially Judy Harrington. This was a difficult campaign which caught us all off-guard. Thanks for your unwavering commitment. Now that we know what we're up against—the bigotry and the ignorance—we will move forward. My role as a rural organizer was difficult, but the hardest part of this campaign has been inner stuff. My own childhood issues were magnified by the "family values" folks. It is in families isolated from a healthy, inclusive society that child abuse and neglect happens. Our voices need to be heard on this matter. Our contribution is important in recovering from the insanity we see in society today. Let's make our community a community of leaders. Let's use our own recovery as a sane response to an insane world.

Kate Boler-Schmidt, Granby

To the editor:

I am writing to say thank you to all of you who put in your time, efforts, money, heart and soul into defeating Amendment 2. On election night, I roamed through the cable channels to find the Colorado election results. When I heard that #2 had passed, I called a friend and cried. I realized my emotional involvement was another step in my coming-out process. On TV I saw the crowd gathered outside the hotel election night. I realized I related completely to their rage and despair and understood for the first time how the rioters in L.A. felt. I'm grateful the vote was as close as it was, and I'm grateful #9 in Oregon was defeated. I'm grateful to all of you for fighting back in all the ways you could, small or large. You have my support, empathy and thanks.

Laurene Ehemann, Casper

To the editor:

I am writing a letter as a heterosexual who wishes to reiterate my support for my lesbian sisters. My husband, two children and I were stunned and immensely disappointed by the passage of Amendment 2. We financially supported EPOC and attended a few EPOC events, but our intention is to become even more active as a family. We wish CFV and their supporters to know that there are many "traditional" families who do not believe any kind of discrimination against any human being is OK. We will not be silent as many of our grandparents were during WWII as our Jewish, homosexual and politically dissident neighbors were dragged off to concentration camps. Not this time, Will Perkins. If we need laws to help people achieve their basic rights, then let us pass them.

Jacqueline Lerner & Family, Denver

To the editor:

We have the distinction of being the only state where sexual orientation can legally be used as a criterion to deny housing, employment, and access to the same programs as the rest of society. We need the face of gay America to reflect the majority, not the fringe groups. We can no longer afford for groups like Queer Nation and ACT-UP to be the spokesmen for the community as a whole. Make no mistake, these groups are the only ones who have had the courage of their convictions to stand in the spotlight. But we are everywhere, in all walks of life and in every family. Coming out is a very personal issue, but waiting for a miracle to keep us safely in the confines of our closet is a luxury we can no longer afford. We need to show all of America who we are and the truth about what we are fighting for: equal protection under the law for all citizens, regardless of sexual orientation. This time around, if you are not part of the solution, you are the problem.

Diane Emery, Littleton

Now the Feminine Ladies Can Hammer Up a Wall

Part I

ORAL HISTORY TAKEN BY KATIE GILMARTIN

"In the early '50's, when I was about eighteen, I began working at a bakery in a small town south of Denver. There were a few girls that worked there—Dottie, Gayle, and Dee. No one said it to me, but I knew something was different with them. But they were very standoffish. They wouldn't be friendly or take breaks with me, because being gay was a criminal thing then! That was my first introduction to gay people—I hadn't even known that they existed before. But I had this curiosity, and I would try to get them into a conversation, to let me know what was happening. I had no idea. I couldn't even fantasize a relationship with them, because I didn't know what that meant.

"At the time I was very unhappy at home. There were too many children, not enough money, and Mom and Dad weren't happy. Those three things add up to zero when it comes to raising children. So as each of us came into our early teens, we all left home, one by one. We had to come out into the world, the six of us, and learn from there. I left by getting married.

"My husband George and I lived in Texas for a while, and had a daughter, Dusty. Within a few years we returned to Colorado. There must have been something clicking, because we weren't back in town too long before I called Dottie. I don't know if I knew even then that she was a lesbian, but I knew that she was different, and I knew I liked her and I liked the crowd that she

ran with—I liked the fun that they were having. 'Course they weren't married with children but anyway, we became friends. Dottie started coming out to the little apartment where we lived, and George was seldom there because he was out running around. We had no money at all; he'd just gotten out of the service. When Dusty would need food or diapers or something, Dottie was there to help. Nothing suggestive. Just a friend. But I think during that time I started thinking more about why she dressed like she did, and I felt something for her. Wanted to be held by her or something—I didn't understand. It was really a mystery, because feelings and emotions were forced into hiding. There were no movies or TV shows, or anything, to show us a way of expressing our thoughts.



"Then George left, and I turned to Dottie for help, because I had to work to support my daughter. I moved into a house with an older lady who was caring for her husband who had cancer, and we arranged that she would watch Dusty while I worked. It worked out real good. I was still pretty young—twenty or twenty-one. Still, Dottie didn't approach me—she was very helpful, kind, and generous. She gave me attention that I needed, but never suggestive of anything sexual. I felt for a long time that she was just my friend. But then,

after George left, I started seeing her in a different light.

"One night while the lady took care of Dusty, I went out with Dottie. We drank a lot, and later Dottie and I found ourselves in the back seat of her car. And that's when she first made love to me. I thought that was the greatest thing that ever happened. Yeah, I was in love, because it was just so different for me to be considered during love-making. At that point she was very, very kind to me. For another year she was generous and would do anything for me. But then we got into the controlling part: 'Cut your hair, wear these clothes, do this, do that.' Well, the honeymoon was over, is all you can say.

"Dottie was not a good person. We had a lot of battles, because I didn't know what was expected of me, and she was one who always fought the women who lived with her—they had to kow-tow to her. She trained me that way. Being her first lady, that's what I thought I was supposed to do. She made me dress real butchy—I didn't mind all that much, but I wasn't comfortable all the time dressed like that. I cut my hair; I had always worn it long. But that's just the way she said gay people are supposed to do it. Even though I didn't know that much about it, it puzzled me. And it still does. I mean, since she was a butch, you would've thought she'd want me to be more feminine. It could have been that she thought this was a better way to keep me tied to her, than if I had been feminine. All of her friends were butches. But it wasn't until I met Lee that I learned otherwise. Until I met Lee, I thought that all butches would beat up on their ladies, that we had to be this sniveling little wimp running behind the butches and doing whatever they wanted. That's how Dottie had trained me. Lee taught me differently. But that was later.

Continued on page 9

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Marching For Our Rights

PAULA BRALLIER AND TERI WEST

The passage of Amendment 2 has made the 1993 March on Washington even more important in the fight for equal rights for everyone. On April 25, 1993 over a million people are expected to march in Washington, D.C. for lesbian, gay and bisexual rights and liberation. The '93 march will be a time for us to come together in our struggle for a national civil rights bill that includes sexual orientation. Amendment 2 is uniting the Colorado lesbian and gay community in their fight against hate and discrimination. We need to take this energy to D.C. and be part of the largest civil rights action in U.S. history!

The Colorado Coalition of the March on Washington meets at noon every first and third Saturday at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Colorado. Meetings are open to anyone interested in helping with the March or attending it. For more information, call 303-831-6268.

For travel information, contact Travel Junction in Denver at 233-2629, Pathways Travel in Boulder at 449-0099, Northglenn Travel (for travel by bus) at 452-6161, or the National March on Washington at 1-800-554-2220. These agencies are offering special rates on travel and accommodations. See you in D.C. in '93!



1987 March on Washington, Photo: Joan Byron

Heidi A. Hundahl



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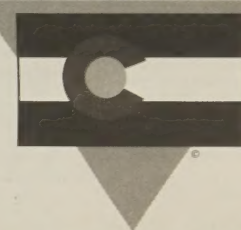
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- **Asian Gays And Lesbians**
2nd Sunday of month 4-6 pm
GLCCC, 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
Denver 831-6268
- **Sister II Sister**
Black Lesbian Support Group
Fridays 7:30 pm
GLCCC, 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
Denver 831-6268
- **Gay AA Meetings**
Winning Women (1420 Ogden St.)
Tuesday 7:30 pm
Live and Let Live (women)
(240 S. Broadway 2nd floor)
Thursday 7 pm
- **Other Gay AA Meetings**
Call 322-4440 for times
Nine to Five (1420 Ogden St.)
Altered Attitudes (1420 Ogden St.)
Courage to Change (1400 Williams)
- **LEGACEY**
Lesbian & Gay Association of City Employees (Denver)
2nd Thursday of month 5:30 pm
GLCCC, 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
Denver 831-6268
- **GLASS**
Gay & Lesbian Addiction Support Series For 12-step recovering couples
1st & 3rd Thurs each month 7:30 pm
1280 Vine St., Denver 388-6469
- **Incest/Sexual Assault Survivors Organization For Political Action**
Denver Lindsey 756-6189
- **OUTRIGHT!**
Meetings for gay lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth, ages 21 and under only
Denver GLCCC 831-6268
- **Youth Drop-In Center**
Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals 21 and under
Every Tuesday, Wednesday
Thursday 4-6 pm GLCCC,
1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
Denver 831-6268
- **Young Lesbian Support Group**
(Ages 18-25)
Meets every Monday 7-8:30 pm
GLCCC, 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
Denver 831-6268

Calendar

Listings are free for lesbian events.
Entries received by the 5th of the month
will be published the 15th of the same
month. Type all listings, mark as a calendar item, and mail to LIC, P.O. Box 533,
Contract Station 2, Denver CO 80206

■ **Lesbian Survivors Of Domestic Violence**
Alternatives to Family Violence
9101 Pearl St., Thornton
\$5.00 per group 280-0111

■ **Lesbian Moms**
Meets regularly call Sue for details
Boulder 651-0947

■ **Young Womyn's Coming Out Group**
1st and 3rd Tuesdays 6 pm
Call LBGA for information
Boulder 492-8567

■ **Gay and Lesbian Parents of Denver**
1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month
7:30 pm Call 831-6268 for location

■ **The Teachers' Group**
Social and support group for lesbian and gay educators
1st Friday of month
Denver 455-7872

■ **Lesbian/Gay Overeaters Anonymous**
Mondays 6:45 pm
St. Barnabas Church 1280 Vine St.
Saturdays 9:30 am
Emerson School (basement) 14th & Ogden, Denver Monica 355-9011

■ **Support for Survivors of Lesbian Battering**
Boulder County Safehouse.
449-8623 Veronica

■ **Lesbians Choosing Children**
Third Saturday of month 11:30 am
Leanne 320-6714

■ **Battered Lesbians**
educational & support groups
SafeHouse for Battered Women
Denver 830-2001

■ **Womynscircle**
Support & discussion group for lesbians
Every Tuesday 7-9 pm
GLCCC, 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
\$1 suggested donation
Denver 831-6268

■ **Coming Out Boulder**
for lesbian, gay bisexual and unsure youth under 21
Every Wednesday 7-10 pm
Sponsored by the Boulder County Health Dept. Free
Ann or Keith 441-1244

SOCIAL

■ **Rocky Mountain Career Women's Association**
3rd Friday of month 7:30 pm
2180 S. University Blvd.
University Park United Methodist Church Denver 465-1208

■ **Womynspace**
Sundays 7:30-10 pm
Brillig Works, 1322 College Ave.
Boulder 786-9147

■ **Singles Dining Club**
Once a month, for dining and conversation Boulder 776-7488

■ **SOL (Slightly Older Lesbians)**
4th Saturday of month
Pot Luck 6:30 pm, Program 7:30 pm
Capitol Hill Community Center
1290 Williams Street
Denver 696-8434 or 331-2547

■ **Women's Outdoor Club**
2nd Thursday of month 7 pm
Footloose 104 S. Broadway
4th Wednesday of month
Delafield's 430 S. Broadway
Denver 422-4301

■ **TLC (The Lesbian Connection)**
1st Friday of month
Boulder 692-4457

■ **Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual People in Medicine**
Meets Monthly
Denver 666-7911

■ **Synergy Ganymede: The Front Range Gaylaxians**
Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual science fiction/fantasy/horror fan club
3rd Thurs. of month 7 pm
Brad 333-3182

POLITICAL

■ **Lesbian, Bisexual And Gay Community Alliance At C.U. (LBGA)**
Every Tuesday 7:30 pm UMC 28
Boulder 492-8567

■ **Gays And Lesbians For Access Rights And Education (GLARE)**
Disability advocacy group
3rd Monday of month 6:30 pm
Denver 831-6268

■ **La Gente Politica**
Political group for latina/o lesbians & gays 303-831-6086 leave message

■ **The Denver Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)**
331-2773 for recorded message of current issues

■ **PrideFest Colorado**
Committee forming to stage
PrideParade and Festival on 6/27/93
281-8346

■ **Colorado Coalition of the March on Washington**
1st & 3rd Saturday
GLCCC 1245 E. Colfax, Suite 125
Denver 831-6268

■ **Prideline**
Clearinghouse phone for activities to fight #2 Denver 281-8346

CULTURAL

■ **Women's Poetry Reading & Story Telling**
2nd Thursday of month 7:30 pm
Delafield's 430 S. Broadway
Denver 744-6774

RELIGIOUS

■ **Metropolitan Community Church Pioneer**
Sundays 5 pm 2600 Leyden
For Bible Study call 377-2552 Denver

■ **Metropolitan Community Church Of The Rockies**
Sundays 9:30 & 11am, 5 pm
Wednesdays 7 pm
980 Clarkson Street
Denver 860-1819

■ **St. Paul's United Methodist**
Sundays 11am 1615 Ogden
Denver 832-4929

■ **Evangelicals Reconciled**
Bible study & social events for lesbian & gay Christians
Every Friday 7:00 pm
1302 Williams, top floor
Denver 331-2839

OTHER

■ **This Way Out: International Lesbian & Gay Newsmagazine**
Mondays 6:30 pm KGNU 88.5
Boulder 449-4885

CURRENT

SOCIAL

■ **Winter Holidays Dance**
sponsored by Rocky Mtn. Career Women's Assoc.
Dec. 18 Club Alternative

■ **Jewish Lesbians & Friends**
Dec. 25 KSI Winter Park
Denver 733-8353

SUPPORT GROUPS

■ **EAGLE**
US WEST Gay & Lesbian Resource Group
Jan. 14 6:30pm membership meeting
Denise Beahn 896-0373

CULTURAL

■ **16th Annual Leaping Lesbian Follies**
Feb. 27 7:30pm
To audition, call 303-333-7653 by Feb. 4

■ **Judy Sanchez: Fine Art Photography: Mixed Media**
through Jan. 17
Boulder's Walnut Cafe
30th & Walnut
Boulder 447-2315

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ONGOING

■ **Metropolitan Community Church**
Sundays 7:30 pm
St. Thomas Lutheran Chapel
805 S. Shields
Mark 679-1134

■ **Parents And Friends Of Lesbians And Gays**
3rd Thursday of month
Lory Student Center,
Virginia Dale Room 224-8044

■ **Women's Support Group**
Every Friday 6 pm 491-7232

■ **Youth Group Meeting**
FCGLA 491-7232 for information
■ **Lesbian Mothers Support Group**
Mary 493-9239

■ **Bisexual Support Network**
2nd Monday of month
Foothills Unitarian Church
1815 Yorktown Ave.

NATIONAL

■ **The Third Wave Int'l Women's Film & Video Festival**
Call for Entries
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512-474-4337

■ **March on Washington**
April 25, 1993
Keri 303-373-1558

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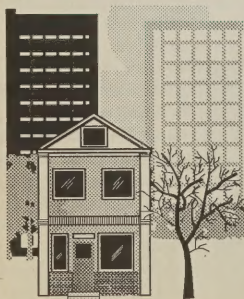
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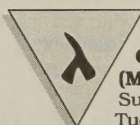
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Book Review

Books For Our Kids and Their Friends

BARBARA J. EDWARDS

Heather Has Two Mommies

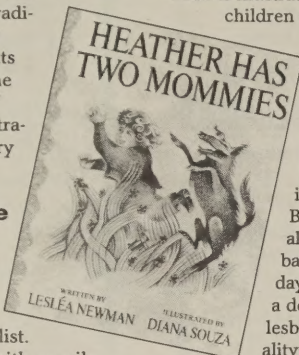
By Lelea Newman, Alyson Wonderland, 1991, \$9.95

This story, delightfully illustrated by Diane Souz, tells of Heather's first day at a child care facility, where she meets other children of both unconventional and "traditional" families. The story tastefully handles the subject of lesbian parents and leaves room for discussion of the question: "Where did I come from?" The small reader can color the illustrations and make her own unique story book. For children four and older.

Gloria Goes To Gay Pride

By Lelea Newman, Alyson Wonderland, 1991, \$7.95

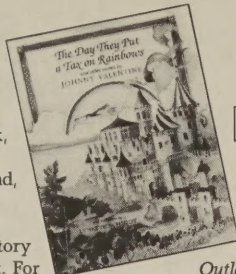
A little girl's story about her first Gay Pride Parade is the subject of this Lambda Literary Awards finalist. The book is beautifully illustrated with pencil drawings by Russell Crocker. Gloria talks about Gay Pride Day in the context of other holidays she and her family celebrate, including Halloween, Valentine's Day and Chanukah. She makes posters for the event and describes various people she meets at the parade, including protesters. Gloria learns that "love is the most important thing of all...that's why we march in the parade—so everyone can have a choice." For children five and older.



The Daddy Machine

By Johnny Valentine, Alyson Wonderland, 1992, \$6.95

For kids with lesbian moms who want a flight into fantasy, this book is just the ticket. Two young girls playing with a construction set decide to create a Daddy Machine so they can have a daddy like the rest of their friends. They finish up their task, turn on the machine and out pops—a daddy! They run off to play with the dad, but they forget to turn off the switch. What occurs next is delightful fun for both parent and child. This coloring-story book is illustrated by Lynette Schmidt. For children nine and older.



The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans

By Johnny Valentine, Alyson Wonderland, 1991, \$12.95

The Day They Put A Tax On Rainbows

By Johnny Valentine, Alyson Wonderland, 1992, \$12.95

These hard-cover books of fairy tales, featuring children with lesbian and gay parents, come to life with delightful color illustrations by Lynette Schmidt. The stories are perfect to read to your child on a cold winter's night with a hot cup of cocoa. *The Duke Who*

Outlawed Jelly Beans won a Lambda Literary

Award with stories about a frog prince, a girl who disguises herself as a boy and saves her village from a fierce dragon, and a witch who forgets how to undo a spell. *The Day They Put a Tax on Rainbows* follows the same format, but the tales are more original. There's a boy who loves to feed birds, a girl who finds a ring that allows her to explore a kingdom beneath the sea, and a king who complains that his throne is too lumpy. There are dragons, talking dolphins, and elves that bring trouble, as well as joy, to the people they meet. For children four and older.

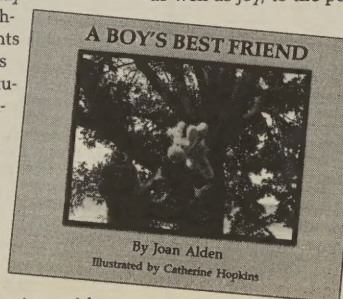
Editor's note: Since New York City added several Alyson Wonderland titles to their first-grade curriculum last spring, libraries report these books depicting the children of lesbian and gay parents have disappeared from their shelves. To help them resist pressure to ban these titles, Alyson mailed free copies of *Daddy's*

Roommate and *The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans* to 500 libraries.

A Boy's Best Friend

By Joan Alden, Alyson Wonderland, 1992, \$12.95

Being different in today's world isn't easy, and this dilemma is the premise of *A Boy's Best Friend*. Because Will has asthma, he isn't allowed to have pets or play ball at school. For his birthday, he insists that he wants a dog or nothing at all. His lesbian parents (whose sexuality is refreshingly incidental to the story) give Will a stuffed animal named LeDogg. LeDogg teaches Will a few things about being different: "Everyone is different. When you don't mind your difference, it stops being a problem and becomes your distinction." The photographs by Catherine Hopkins have a lovely, soft-edged focus that allows for imagination, without being cloying. For children five and older.



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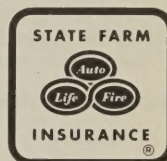


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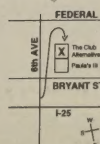
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Ladies: Continued from page 4

"It's hard for young people today to realize how difficult gay life used to be. True or not, Dottie believed we would be jailed if anyone found out. Try making out in the back seat with that on your mind! Now we can watch talk shows, and at least one of ten is about gay people, lesbians, and other alternative lifestyles. In the '50s, there were few articles, books, and magazines—certainly no TV. If there were magazines listing gay bars, or anything homosexual, it was in the black market sort of thing. I wasn't involved in anything where I would have access to that information. At the gay functions I attended, we would go to the bar, drink a big bunch of beer, and, to be frank, try to get laid. If none of that happened, then we went home alone. I had no opportunity to talk with or enjoy gay people who could introduce me to groups other than the bar scene, or teach me what was happening in the gay world outside the bar scene. I didn't know that things might be different. It was hard to leave Dottie because she was so controlling. As difficult as it was to live with her, it was more difficult to leave her. But when the hitting began, I left.

"Ahh, but gay life back in the '50s... After I left Dottie, I still thought I was going to be a tough butch. You see, I didn't know what being a lesbian was all about except the way you made love—I learned that in a hurry—but I thought you had to dress butchy. And cuss and spit. (Laughter) You had to have your own car too, so I got a Ford. I found

babysitters for Dusty, and I used to drive to Denver all by myself, to go to the Rollo Club. Oh, the Rollo, god! The Rollo was just off Speer Boulevard, one block north of Colfax. It was a grungy old bar downstairs. Thinking back, it seems like it was always dark in there. It couldn't have been that dark, it just seemed dark and mischievous to me, mysterious. There was a big gal that now I think of as a tough Dolly Parton. She was the owner of the Rollo, and she kept everyone in line. You could lose anything in that bar. Your cigarettes, your lighter, or your heart. And sure enough, all the lesbians in there dressed like Dottie, with the engineer boots and the black leather. God, they were tough. And so, I guess, I was tough too. I was just as butchy as the next one, but had no idea what I was supposed to do from that point!

" 'Course, I never really was butch, I just was doin' what Dottie wanted me to do. I tried to be butchy for probably two years, and then I understood, when Lee came along, that there are ladies who are feminine and ladies who are butchy. So I went back to my more feminine ways, and I've always stayed here and enjoyed being feminine. I think it's great now that the girls aren't required to pretend that they're tough butches, or awfully feminine. Now the feminine ladies can go out and hammer up a wall, or drive a truck, and still remain feminine. The gay world is a better place now than it was in the '50s." *Luc*

To be continued in a future issue.

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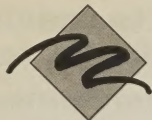
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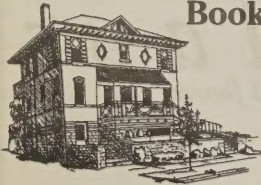
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Hate Crime Report For October

Reporting incidents of hate/violence is more important than ever! This information may be used in the litigation of Amendment #2. The following is a sample of anti-lesbian activities—most go unreported. If you are involved in an incident of hate/violence, call the Anti-Violence Project: 303-324-4297.

10/5 Two lesbians are harassed
▼ by a group of teens at a restaurant near I-225 and Parker Road. Police are not notified.

10/19 A lesbian found her car vandalized at her home in Denver because a No on #2 sticker was on her car. Police are not notified.

10/21 A lesbian found a pamphlet on the medical consequences of homosexuality on her desk at work, because of a No on #2 sticker on her computer. Police are not notified.

10/25 A group of lesbians and a gay man were assaulted by a group of 10 men in the parking lot of a bar in Denver. Police are notified.

10/26 Two lesbians were in their yard with a No on #2 sign when a group of people drove by and yelled, "Kill Queers," "Faggots." Police are not notified.

10/28 Two lesbians received a long hate message on their answering machine because they left a reminder for their callers to vote No on #2. Police are not notified.

10/28 A lesbian was harassed by a parking lot attendant because of her No on #2 button. Police are not notified.

Ask Aunt Sophie

Dear Aunt Sophie,

Every December I find myself in the same dilemma: Should I "do" Christmas with my family or not? I've lived far away from my family since I was a teenager. We've been estranged for many reasons, but mostly because my mother is a severe alcoholic and has been for 20 years. My brothers, though they have their own separate lives, deny my mother's alcoholism. Consequently, the four of them—my mother, stepfather and my two brothers—have a family connection that I don't share. In addition, none of them acknowledges my lesbianism, although I have been out to them for years.

Every year I "do" Christmas, which consists of buying presents to send them, mostly out of my own guilt. I never hear from them much to speak of. Last year I donated money in their names to a lesbian artist with AIDS. My family never said a word about it. Should I continue to "do" Christmas out of family guilt, or ignore it altogether?

Guilt Ridden

Dear Guilt Ridden,

When the biological family Christmas is reduced to a UPS delivery of unacknowledged gifts, is it even worth bothering? I suggest you base your decision on which will give you more peace of mind: sending gifts to avoid guilt, or saving yourself the money and resentment of this apparently unpleasant gesture. Remember that a true gift comes from our hearts with no strings

attached. If you resent sending gifts to those you feel alienated and distant from, let go of that guilt and send less. Try sending simply a well-wishing card, gifts for the little ones only—or make a donation to charity a new tradition. That way even if your family doesn't acknowledge you or your gift, you can feel good knowing that a charitable cause will benefit. I hope other readers will take note of your generous gift idea. A donation to a food bank, women's shelter, or a lesbian/gay center is a wonderful gift to give to ourselves and others this holiday season.

Put your head on Aunt Sophie's shoulder. Send your questions to: LIC, Aunt Sophie, P.O. Box 533, Contract Station 2, Denver, CO 80206.

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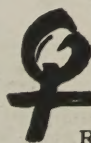
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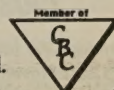
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Oregon: Continued from page 2

key counties, particularly the tri-county area around Portland (where about 43% of the voting population lives) and the corridor running from Portland in the north, to Jackson County in the south. Seventy-five percent of the voters live in this corridor. We waged a massive voter identification effort. Over the course of two months, we identified thousands of our voters and undecided voters. We conducted a persuasive canvass with those undecided voters. And finally, we sent over 140,000 direct mail letters to targeted voters a week before the election.

We defined the issue in our terms and focused our message throughout the campaign.

Polling indicated that most Oregonians viewed the measure as discriminatory; this was our most powerful message. While "discrimination" was the overriding theme, we did use sub-issues, including the First Amendment—separation of church and state, freedom of speech, freedom of association, and the right to assemble. Throughout the campaign, we continually said that this was not just a gay and lesbian issue, but one that would affect all Oregonians. Our tag line in the paid media during the last month of the campaign was simple: "It's a danger to us all."

What was result of all these activities? Most important, we won, and won by 200,000 votes. In 1988 we won only seven of 36 counties. In 1992 we won 15 counties. Of the six most populous counties, we won only two in 1988; we won four in 1992, and the other two were virtual dead heats. These six counties accounted for a net increase of over 196,000 votes from 1988 to 1992. Ballot measure 9 was the most controversial, most talked-about issue on this year's ballot in Oregon: *More people voted on measure 9 than on the presidential race.*

The Oregon Citizens Alliance has already announced they will propose a "milder" version—similar to Colorado's Amendment 2—for the 1994 election. We'll be ready.

Sometimes a loss can be a blessing in disguise. After being shocked and outraged in 1988, people in this state woke up. We woke up to the fact that a small group of people earn their living promoting discrimination. We woke up to the fact that this group wants to push their narrow "moral" and "religious" views on the rest of us. We woke up to the fact that this group would really rather live in a theocracy than a democracy. We woke up to the fact that they place no value on constitutional principles—except for themselves. We woke up. And we said no. As in life, nothing in politics is permanent. A loss today may be a wake up call for the future. And the future is now.

Note: On November 10, 1992, the Oregon Court of Appeals declared ballot measure 8 unconstitutional, finding that it violated the state constitution's guarantee of free speech. Even though OCA won an electoral victory in 1988, their flawed measure eventually could not withstand Constitutional scrutiny. uc

ALERT!!

The Denver Police Department reports a man is beating up and/or sexually assaulting both lesbians and gay men.

- Caucasian male
- About 35 years old
- Tattoos on both arms; right arm tattoo from shoulder to elbow
- Tattoos of devils and skulls on chest
- Boston accent
- Used names Larry, John, Bill & Savage
- Met some victims in bars

Call Detective Lotspeich at 640-1198 or the Anti-Violence Project at 324-GAYS with any information.

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Participants Needed For
research study on the psychological effects of Amendment 2 on Colorado's gay & lesbian community. Volunteer approx. one hour for testing and a brief interview. Participants will remain anonymous. Call psychotherapist Lee Gerstner 628-5597, Mon-Fri, 8am-5:30pm.

Stand Aside
and help the lesbian community understand the politics surrounding Amendment 2, as LIC's political reporter. Must have a journalism background, a sense of fair play, and the courage to say the empress has no clothes. Great opportunity for the right person. \$ negotiable. 303-399-3544.

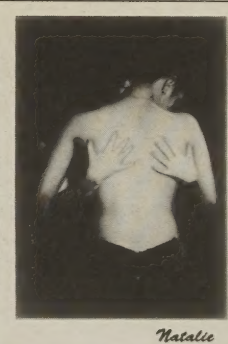
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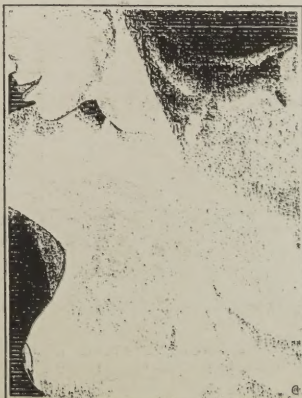
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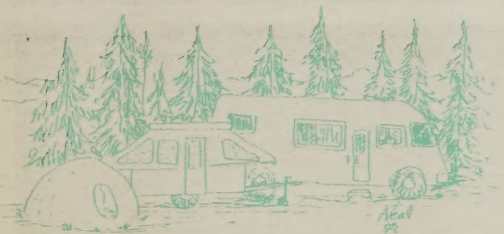
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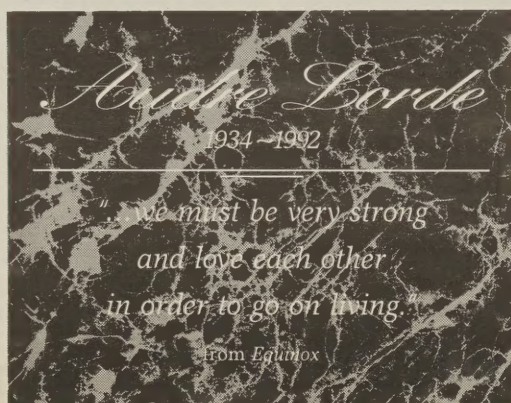
Women who enjoy travelling/camping may be interested in an organization called RVing Women. Started in January 1991 by Zoe Swanagon and Lovern King, RVing Women is a support network for women RVers and any woman who enjoys camping. The first newsletter went out to about 50 women Zoe and Lovern thought might be interested in the network. Today, less than two years later, the group has more than 2,500 members. Inquiries come to the Washington state address at a rate of more than 300 a month. Obviously, the organization answers a need!



With the help of members across the country, rallies have been held in several states. In July of this year, more than 60 RVing Women were at Windy Point Campground at Lake Dillon. Camping outfits ranged from one couple's dome tent with an adjacent screen tent for dining (complete with gleaming candelabra and a vase of flowers),

to both pop-top and full-size trailers, to motor homes the size of a Greyhound bus. Workshops were held, how-to-do-it information swapped, new friendships made, and an impromptu dog show held for the approximately 40 canines in attendance. The two cats who were present had no comment. RVing woman attended the October Balloon Festival in Albuquerque and held rallies in Fort Mojave, Arizona and Brandon, Mississippi in November. A caravan to Alaska is in the works for 1993.

RVing Women is for *all* women: married, with husbands who can't or won't travel; widows; divorcees and single women. But one of my Golden Threads correspondents once wrote that she had given up her Bay area apartment, bought an RV, joined this organization, gone to a rally, and found the equivalent of "Lesbian Retirement Heaven." For a sample newsletter and information about joining, write: RVing Women, P.O. Box 82606, Kenmore, WA 98028



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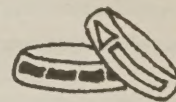
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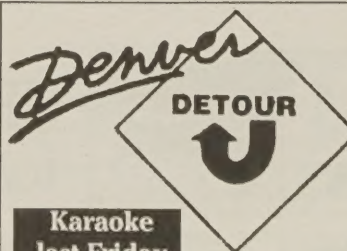
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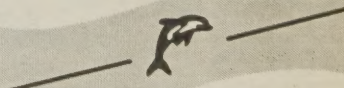
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